Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POLICY REGARDING ANTARTIC LIVING RESOURCES

1. DURING CONVERSATION RELATED TO OTHER FISHERIES MATTERS, PATRICK RYAN, ASST. SECRETARY FOR POLICY FISHERIES DIVISION, DEPT. OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, STATED AUSTRALIAN VIEW THAT FISHERIES COMMISSION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THE SOUTHERN OCEAN (ANTARCTICA). AUSTRALIANS FEEL THAT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SHOULD PROVIDE SPRINGBOARD FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANTARCTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION, ALTHOUGH THEIR THINKING HASN'T BEEN REFINED REGARDING MEMBERSHIP, FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION, ETC. GOA UNDERSTANDS ANTARCTIC TREATY WILL BE COMING UNDER STRAIN IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT FEELS FISHERIES

MANAGEMENT IN AREA IS NECESSITY. RYAN STATED THAT AUSTRALIAN POSITION WAS TO KEEP LOS QUESTIONS SEPARATE FROM ANTARCTIC TREATY, AND GOA LOOKING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A "HIGH SEAS COMMISSION."

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2. REGARDING TIMING, GOA FEELS FIRST STEP IS TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF

CONCEPT OF A FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR SOUTHERN OCEAN, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL BE SERIOUS PROBLEM. GOA EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH U.S. DESIRE TO HAVE FIRM ASSESSMENT OF LIVING RESOURCES IN HAND BEFORE CONSIDERING NEGOTIATIONS, BUT FEELS STRONGLY THAT EARLY ACTION IS INDICATED. RYAN STATED GOA GOAL IS TO HAVE MANAGEMENT REGIME IN PLACE BY END OF 1977. GOA INTENDS TO SEND FISHERIES OFFICER (PROBABLY RYAN) TO NEXT REGULAR CONSULTATIVE MEETING, AND OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO PUSH THE ISSUE. RYAN STATED GOA WOULD "ADHERE TO AGENDA" AT SPECIAL PARIS MEETING THIS SUMMER, AND GAVE IMPRESSION GOA WOULD NOT RAISE LIVING RESOURCE QUESTION THERE. HE PROMISED TO NOTIFY U.S. IN ADVANCE IF THIS POSITION CHANGED.

3. CONTRARY TO CURRENT GOA POSITION, BOTH RYAN AND
E.A. PURNELL-WEBB, ASST. SECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS, FISHERIES
DIVISION, DEPT. OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, EXPRESSED GOA INTENTION
TO DEVELOP SOUTHERN AUSTRALIAN PORTS FOR USE AS OPERATING BASES
FOR VESSELS, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC, ENGAGED IN EXPLOITATION OF
SOUTHERN OCEAN LIVING RESOURCES. GOA WILL ADHERE TO PRESENT
POLICY, HOWEVER, UNTIL A SATISFACTORY MANAGEMENT REGIME IS IN
PLACE.
HODGSON

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